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Claims

We claim:

1. a system for locating and identifying golf balls in a golf course or driving range comprising a passive transponder that can be embedded anywhere within a golf ball, a wireless and/or wired grid of transceivers, and computer/data management system for data processing;
2. a system, *furthermore in accordance with claim 1*, for finding the distance of a certain golf ball from a cup on the green and to the PDA by calculating the ~~length~~ *distance* of the said golf *ball* to the various said objects using the grid map that contains the location and identification of all transceivers on a particular golf course or driving range;
3. a database management system, *as a subcombination of claim 1*, for tracking all the golf balls, the associated number of golf strokes and golfer statistics;
4. a database management system, *as a subcombination of claim 1*, useful for golfers to find, locate and identify golf balls, count golf strokes, keep golf scores and find distance of golf balls to cups on the greens and to the PDAs by keeping records of information on the location of the golf balls and PDAs as a function of time;
5. a database management system, *as a subcombination of claim 1*, useful for golfers to find, locate and identify their golf balls amongst the multitude of golf balls in a typical driving range by keeping records of information on the serial number and location of the golf balls and the golfer who played said balls;
6. a system, *furthermore in accordance with claim 1*, for finding the distance of a particular golf ball from a cup on the green and to the PDA. The cup will be found either by using the data base management system where the hole is specified on a computer layout and/or by having an passive RFID transponder on the cup which relays its location back to the PDA; and
7. a database management system, *as a subcombination of claim 1*, for tracking all the golf balls, the associated number of golf strokes and golfer statistics. The data base management system will expand the usefulness of the passive RFID transponder system by allowing not only tracking the location of a ball, but accumulating the number of times the ball is moved hence automatically counting the strokes and entering this data into a system which can determine handicaps, etc.